

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5925

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As of February 18, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to insurance requirements for higher education students participating in study or research abroad.

**Brief Description:** Regarding insurance for higher education students participating in study or research abroad.

**Sponsors:** Senators Shin, Kastama, Jacobsen, Berkey, Hobbs, Franklin, Hargrove and Kohl-Welles; by request of University of Washington.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/24/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Staff:** Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

**Background:** Institutions of higher education (institutions) may make any type of insurance available for regents, trustees, and students. The premiums for the insurance are paid by the assenting regents, trustees, or students. The institutions may also make liability insurance available for their employees. The premiums on the liability insurance are paid by the institutions. At public four-year institutions, the governing boards may make available and pay the costs of health benefits for graduate students holding graduate service appointments and their immediate families.

A number of students choose to participate in studies and research outside the United States. Some of these study or research abroad activities and student exchanges are administered by the institutions themselves while others are sponsored by independent organizations or the federal government. Many of the independent providers require proof of health insurance as a condition of participation. While many Washington institutions of higher education strongly encourage students to review their insurance coverage before participating in these overseas programs, they are not authorized to require insurance coverage.

**Summary of Bill:** As a condition of participation in study or research abroad programs that are sponsored, arranged, or approved by the institution, the governing board of an institution of higher education may require its students to purchase approved insurance that will provide

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coverage for expenses incurred as a result of injury, illness, or death. The institution may bear all or part of the costs of the insurance.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.